

American

NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

June 28, 2010

G20 Summit Statement on Global Energy, Climate Change Challenges	1
G8 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism	2
President Obama Welcomes Iran Sanctions Legislation.....	3
Economic Summit Focuses on Sustaining Current Recovery	4
U.S. World Cup Team Plays for One Country, Players Hail from Many	5

G20 Summit Statement on Global Energy, Climate Change Challenges

G20 members "scaling up" domestic efforts to reduce emissions

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2010

G-20 Toronto Summit: Acting on Our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges

At the Toronto Summit, G-20 Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, a groundbreaking agreement at the Pittsburgh Summit which will encourage the conservation of energy, improve our energy security, reduce economically inefficient burdens on budgets, and provide a down-payment on our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Leaders reviewed the significant work that has been done this past year to develop implementation strategies and timeframes, and committed themselves to continued and full implementation of this effort.

Background on the Pittsburgh Commitment and Implementation Process

At the Pittsburgh Summit, the G-20 Leaders committed to rationalizing and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term. Since Pittsburgh, the G-20 countries have focused on the following activities:

- **Developed Country Strategies and Timeframes for Review:** In January 2010, the G-20 established an experts working group on energy, in which all 20 countries participate in an open and constructive manner. The G20 energy experts, under the supervision of the Finance and Energy Ministers, have taken initial steps to review fossil fuel subsidy programs in their own countries, and develop strategies and timeframes for rationalizing and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
- **Joint Report on the Scope and Impact of Global Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** As requested by the G-20 leaders, the International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and World Bank will soon publish a Joint Report analyzing the scope of global energy subsidies and offering recommendations for rationalization and phase out. Their report has found that fossil fuel subsidies displace important public investments and drain government finances, worsen balance of payments, lead to underinvestment in infrastructure, and can contribute to energy shortages. The report estimates that fossil fuel consumption subsidies cost the the global economy \$557

billion in 2008, and unless eliminated can be expected to impose similar costs in the future. Additionally, the report found that subsidies do not provide meaningful, widespread benefits to low-income households, and that other types of targeted support for low-income families serve as a more effective social safety net.

- **Recent Successes:** On June 25, India announced its decision to deregulate retail gasoline prices. In addition, the government decided to raise the prices for diesel, kerosene, and liquid petroleum gases (LPG), with a further commitment to phase out the diesel subsidy over time. This is a difficult decision in the short-run due to concerns about price inflation, but will provide long-term benefits to the country. In Mexico the government has begun phasing out motor fuel subsidies while conducting a household-level census of fuel consumption that will allow the government to implement a well-targeted support program to compensate low-income households. These models from India and Mexico are important examples of how the G-20, and countries around the world, can implement this pledge to the benefit of their national economies and most vulnerable citizens.

Achieving Additional Progress

At Toronto, the G-20 Leaders welcomed the work to date of the Finance and Energy Ministers to fulfill the Pittsburgh fossil fuel subsidies pledge, and encouraged continued and full implementation of country-specific strategies. The G-20 also committed to review progress towards this pledge at upcoming Leaders Summits.

Global Action on Climate Change

The G-20 Leaders who have associated with the Copenhagen Accord reaffirmed their commitment to implementation of the Accord, and are working with countries around the world to carry out the Accord's provisions on cutting emissions, promoting clean technologies, mobilizing financing, and ensuring the transparency of national efforts. The G-20 countries are scaling up their domestic efforts to reduce emissions, and working to mobilize financing internationally so that developing countries can better adapt to climate change and invest in clean energy technologies.

G8 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism

Emphasize that terrorism is global problem that needs global response

G8
Muskoka 2010
Canada

G-8 Leaders Statement on Countering Terrorism

We, the Leaders of the G-8, reiterate our absolute condemnation of terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, and our commitment to work together to eradicate this threat. Recent events, such as the attempted bombing on December 25, 2009 of the airline en route to Detroit and the brutal attacks of March 29, 2010 on the Moscow subway, are reminders of the terrorist threat. We express our deepest sympathies for lives lost and disrupted by these senseless acts.

Terrorism threatens people everywhere and undermines peace, stability and security. All acts of terrorism are criminal, inhumane, and unjustifiable irrespective of motivation. We condemn suicide bombings, and we abhor in particular the practice of recruiting the young or disadvantaged to carry out such acts. We deplore the upsurge in hostage-takings perpetrated by terrorists, as such abductions are repugnant to our fundamental notions of freedom, and we commit to work together to prevent their proliferation and bring those responsible to justice. We express our concern about the links of some terrorists to illicit drug trafficking and organized crime – we are determined to disrupt these partnerships of convenience. As highlighted at the Washington Summit on Nuclear security, nuclear terrorism is one of the most challenging threats to international security.

Terrorism will not be defeated by force alone. It is critical to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and, in particular, that governments promote the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic values, good governance, tolerance and inclusiveness to offer a viable alternative to those who could be susceptible to terrorist recruitment and to radicalization leading to violence. We are committed to helping countries address their basic development needs and meet the legitimate aspirations of their people. All peoples everywhere deserve security in their communities, education for their children, opportunity for employment and a sense of dignity and self-worth.

We reaffirm that full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is critical to an effective counter-terrorism strategy, and we reject the false choice between our security and our democratic values. All of our actions against terrorism must be

consistent with the UN Charter and applicable international law. We reiterate the central role of the UN in the fight against terrorism and stress the importance of full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We strongly urge all states to join and implement the international conventions and protocols against terrorism. We welcome improvements to the UN al-Qa'ida and Taliban sanctions regime, most recently the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1904, and we underscore the importance of further progress in its implementation, and continuing work in support of fair and clear procedures.

Terrorism is a global threat that requires a global response. No single country or group of countries can hope to defeat terrorism. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, extensive international cooperation has weakened the ability of terrorists to recruit, train, fund and execute attacks. We are committed to further enhancing international cooperation, by strengthening old partnerships and building new ones with governments, multilateral organizations and the private sector. We also recognize the crucial role of civil society in effective counter-terrorism efforts. We pledge to strengthen the cooperation between relevant UN bodies and the G-8 and, together with committed partners, we will work to broaden, deepen and make more robust the global multilateral counter-terrorism umbrella.

We recognize the role of the G-8 Roma/Lyon Group (comprised of our counter-terrorism and anti-crime experts) in the global fight against terrorism, as well as the work of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG), which seeks to build capacity and political will to assist countries in addressing the terrorist threat. We applaud Canada's leadership in bringing strategic focus to the groups' efforts through the preparation of a robust action plan on counter-terrorism and organized crime. We endorse this plan.

We underscore our determination to work cooperatively on key challenges, including transportation security, border security and identity integrity, preventing chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological terrorism, combating terrorism financing, countering violent extremism, radicalization leading to violence, and recruitment. Given the complex nature of the terrorist threat, an integrated and coordinated G-8 response is essential to meeting this challenge.

We acknowledge that terrorist groups and other criminal organizations tend to flourish where governments lack the capacity and resiliency to address security vulnerabilities, in some cases threatening the stability of states. We emphasize the essential role capacity-building can play to support countries in need of assistance to

fulfill their international counter-terrorism commitments. Addressing the institutional weaknesses that allow terrorists to operate freely is a critical element of our efforts. Building upon the efforts of the CTAG, we emphasize the need to improve the coordination of the growing bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives, and to make these efforts more innovative, far-reaching and sustained. We recognize the profound effects of terrorism on these countries and regions, and we are mindful of their needs. We, the G-8 countries, stand together to support them, in particular, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Sahel, Somalia and Yemen. We will seek to build closer cooperation among relevant G-8 partner programs to make our effort to address terrorism and related security threats more coherent and effective.

Despite our operational successes against al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups, radicalization leading to violence remains a source of serious concern. Special attention must be paid to curtailing the influence of violent extremists, undermining their false narrative, isolating them from the people they pretend to serve and disrupting their misuse of the internet. Our work will focus on identifying the drivers of violent extremism and then on preventing those most at risk of recruitment and radicalization from becoming terrorists.

By preying on the innocent and vulnerable, terrorists cause unspeakable harm to the very fabric of society. Their actions impact not only the victims, but their families, friends and fellow citizens. Survivors of terrorism and their families have risen against terrorism in the aftermath of horrific attacks. We reiterate our commitment to further develop initiatives that assist them. They are giving a voice to victims while bravely speaking out against violent and extremist ideologies. We stand with them and their families, and we are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard and that the victims are never forgotten.

President Obama Welcomes Iran Sanctions Legislation

Washington — President Obama welcomed new penalties approved by the U.S. Congress that strengthen sanctions against Iran over its nuclear weapons development program.

"We appreciate that House and Senate leaders have come together with a strong bill that builds upon the recently passed U.N. Security Council Resolution, grants the president new authority, and strengthens a multilateral strategy to isolate and pressure Iran," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said in a prepared statement June 21 after a U.S. Senate and House of Representatives joint conference committee reached final agreement.

The final measure passed the U.S. Senate without objection and passed in the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 408–8 on June 24.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said June 25 that the measure, approved overwhelmingly by Congress, shows that Iran's nuclear weapons policies reduce its standing and further isolates it in the international community. At issue is the Iranian regime's refusal to comply with international demands through the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Iran has also rejected diplomatic efforts from six nations — China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States — that offered alternatives for the regime and still would have provided the country with enriched nuclear fuel for a medical reactor in Tehran.

On June 9, the U.N. Security Council voted 12–2, with one nation abstaining, to impose a fourth set of sanctions (UNSC Resolution 1929) against Iran. The resolution prohibits member nations from selling or transporting heavy weaponry to Iran, including battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems. Among other measures in the resolution, the assets of more than 41 additional Iranian companies have been frozen, including 15 that are controlled by the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

On June 16, the United States announced expanded financial measures to block U.S. transactions with listed businesses, banks and maritime companies, and a freeze on any assets of the listed entities held in U.S. jurisdiction, with a specific emphasis on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"These new measures, along with action by the European Union and Australia, build on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929 and underscore the resolve of the international community to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and to hold it accountable for its international obligations," Clinton said in a prepared statement. "In addition to increasing pressure on Iran's illicit nuclear activities, this legislation also addressed the Iranian government's continued violation of the fundamental rights of its citizens."

KEY PROVISIONS

- The legislation approved by Congress requires U.S. banks to prohibit or impose strict conditions on "correspondent" or payable through accounts of any foreign banks working with certain Iranian entities, especially Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- Penalties would be imposed on U.S. banks if their

foreign subsidiaries are doing business with the Revolutionary Guard Corps or any of its companies or affiliates.

- The legislation sanctions any company worldwide that exports gasoline or other refined petroleum products to Iran, or that provides Iran with goods or services that help it expand its own production of petroleum products. And any companies that finance, broker or underwrite the shipments, or deliver the gasoline or sell the production technology, also would be subject to U.S. sanctions.

- The legislation gives the president a number of choices of possible sanctions to impose that include restrictions on foreign exchange, banking transactions and property transactions.

- It also grants the president authority to waive sanctions on a company for 12 months on a case-by-case basis.

- The legislation also requires the president to compile a public list of individuals in Iran who are complicit in human rights violations — and would ban them from receiving U.S. visas and would freeze their financial assets held in U.S. banks.

- Any company that provides Iran with technology or equipment that would restrict free speech could not receive U.S. government contracts.

- Finally, the legislation imposes export controls to stop the illegal export of sensitive technology to Iran through other countries and would allow the president to impose severe export restrictions to countries that will not cooperate.

Economic Summit Focuses on Sustaining Current Recovery

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States will take steps at two major economic summits in Canada June 25–27 to ensure that the current global recovery is self-sustaining, say senior U.S. advisers.

“Engagement with the [Group of 20 major economies] has been a key component of the administration’s strategy to defuse the global financial crisis and ensure economic recovery,” Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and National Economic Adviser Lawrence Summers said in a June 23 commentary in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Geithner and Summers said the G20 is critical to ensuring that global growth continues and that three priorities are part of the U.S. agenda at the Toronto summit. The priorities are that the G20 do the following:

- Work to secure the global recovery.
- Accelerate efforts to establish a global framework for financial regulation.
- Make progress on other global challenges essential to future security and prosperity — raising living standards across developing countries and making better investments in agricultural development and food security.

The Group of Eight (G8) meets June 25–26 in Muskoka, Canada, and the Group of 20 (G20) follows June 26–27 in Toronto. The G20 will hold a second summit November 11–12 in Seoul.

President Obama will open the main session of the G20 on a framework for maintaining and advancing “strong, balanced and sustainable growth,” a senior administration official said during a June 23 White House background briefing. This component of the multinational talks follows from the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit and from a time when the global recession was beginning to bottom out and the recovery phase was beginning.

Then the talks will turn to international financial institutions, trade and protectionism, climate change and energy security, and, at the end of the session, regulatory reform. A joint House-Senate conference committee is completing work on a U.S. financial reform bill that will put in place measures to prevent a repeat of the 2008–09 recession, which economists regarded as the deepest since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Senior administration officials said there will also be a discussion about economic events in Europe. European leaders have begun austerity initiatives to gradually reduce substantial debts that had been necessary to stimulate sagging domestic economies.

“Global coordination is essential to fostering the kind of balance and sustainable growth that we will be pursuing through the G20,” an official said.

In addition to the economic talks, Obama will also hold face-to-face talks with leaders from South Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom, China, Indonesia and India, and a possible seventh bilateral meeting with the new prime minister from Australia. Obama has also spoken with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the run-up to the two summits, discussing the agendas for the talks and the scope of the meetings.

Seven African leaders have been asked to join the talks during the G8 meetings on economic development and maternal and child health, a favored initiative by Harper, who is host for the G8 and G20 summits. And leaders from Haiti, Jamaica and Colombia will join G8 discussions on the illicit drug trade between Latin America and

Africa.

Canada is also expected to address preventing a worsening debt crisis among nations, while seeking agreement on reducing those debts by 50 percent over the next five years.

And it is expected that some discussion will be directed at reducing fossil-fuel subsidies, which had been raised at the Pittsburgh summit, senior administration officials said. Member nations have been analyzing their policies and have begun to submit lists of subsidies they want to phase out over time.

"It's going to be an ongoing process. We said the phaseout was to be done over the medium term, and each country will do it in their own way and consistent with its own particular circumstances," an administration official said.

ROLE OF ECONOMIC FORUMS

The G8 advanced economies — established informally in November 1975 in France — are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. One of these nations hosts the economic forums annually and sets the agenda after consultations with other member nations. The G20, which was formed in 1999, includes the G8 members plus Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the European Union (EU).

In addition to the nations represented at the summits, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank president and the chairmen of the Financial Committee and the Development Committee also participate in the summits.

Since the mid-1970s, leaders from the former Group of Seven (G7) nations, along with a small group of developed countries, gathered annually to discuss and coordinate global financial and economic policies, usually over a two-day period in one of the host nations.

The G20 became more prominent with the onset of the recent recession. The group leaders have met three times at the summit level to coordinate policy responses — November 2008 in Washington, April 2009 in London and September 2009 in Pittsburgh. At the last summit the leaders agreed that thereafter the G20 would be the premier forum for international economic coordination.

The G20 countries play a significant role in international economic stability because they represent about 90 percent of the gross domestic product globally and nearly 80 percent of world trade. They also represent two-thirds

of the world's population.

G20 leaders in their last two summits created a balanced economic framework designed to shrink surpluses in export-rich countries such as China and boost savings in debt-laden nations, including the United States.

U.S. World Cup Team Plays for One Country, Players Hail from Many

By Eric Green
Special Correspondent

Washington — It's the soccer player's version of the American dream.

About a dozen U.S. players from immigrant families have achieved the ultimate goal in their sport — being picked to play for their country in the 2010 FIFA World Cup of Soccer.

Team USA midfielders Benny Feilhaber and Stuart Holden came to the United States when they were young: Feilhaber from Brazil at age 6 and Holden from Scotland when he was 10 years old.

Goalkeeper Tim Howard's mother is from Hungary and the father of Team USA captain Landon Donovan, who scored the winning goal during the U.S. team match against Algeria June 23, is from Canada. Edson Buddle's father is a former professional soccer player from Jamaica. The parents of Team USA's Oguchi Onyewu were born in Nigeria and came to the United States to attend college.

Steven Goff, a soccer journalist for the *Washington Post*, said that "American soccer has evolved dramatically in terms of racial, ethnic and economic diversity." The team's World Cup roster, he said, is "now mixed with whites, blacks and Latin Americans from varying backgrounds," reflecting the fact that Hispanics and African Americans are the largest minority groups in the United States.

Goff said that Sunil Gulati, the president of the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF), the governing body for soccer in the United States, should be credited for building stronger relationships with groups, including the Hispanic-American community, that love soccer "above all other sports" and provide "a new resource of young talent."

Gulati — who also is foreign-born, having come to the United States from India when he was age 5 — told reporters that the U.S. World Cup squad players' myriad ethnic backgrounds are a very positive thing. One of the special features about soccer, Gulati said, is that it is a "game that can be played by everyone. It is very international and multicultural."

EVOLUTION OF U.S. SOCCER

Mike Woitalla, executive editor of *Soccer America Magazine*, said that the United States has fielded its “most ethnically diverse” team since the first World Cup was played in Uruguay in 1930.

The U.S. national team that finished third in soccer’s inaugural World Cup in 1930 was composed primarily of players from backgrounds in Scotland and Ireland. The 1950 U.S. World Cup squad was dominated by players of Portuguese and Italian backgrounds, mirroring the immigration patterns to the United States in the first half of the 20th century.

The diverse makeup of the 2010 World Cup team may reflect how soccer in America has changed from being a niche sport geared primarily for white, prosperous families from the suburbs.

Neil Buethe, USSF spokesman, said that the prevailing thought in the United States had been that soccer is a “suburban white sport,” but now players from all income groups in U.S. society are embracing the game.

The USSF is “trying to tap into that in a number of different ways,” including sending scouts into lower-income areas to watch players who do not have access to the coaching or organization of more prosperous youth leagues. The goal is to bring promising players into a better environment to develop their soccer skills, Buethe said.

The USSF, in conjunction with the Washington-based U.S. Soccer Foundation, the major charitable arm of soccer in the United States, provides scholarships to young people (ages 14-17) to participate in a development academy that trains a pool of players for the country’s national team.

“We’ve seen the World Cup team evolve over the years, with more and more players of different ethnicity, such as Hispanic Americans, on the squad, which is definitely a very positive development,” he said.

The last three male winners of the Hermann Trophy, recognizing the best college soccer player in the United States, have been African Americans.

Andrew Guest, a self-confessed “soccer addict” who writes for a Chicago-based blog about soccer culture called “Pitch Invasion,” said that if soccer is to reach an increasingly diverse talent pool in the United States, “the key is to provide community access through parks, recreation centers and schools.”

Guest said the U.S. World Cup roster “really does seem to represent the old cliché of America as a melting pot” (mix

of groups) and that Team USA “looks remarkably like the diverse nation it represents” — a team he is “proud to root for” in the World Cup.

(Preceding items distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://america.gov>)